



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

Contact: T. Wayne Kirwan, 410-313-2108
wkirwan@howardcountymd.gov

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Pasadena Man Pleads Guilty to 2016 Murder of a Columbia Man

A Pasadena man has pleaded guilty to the September 2016 murder of Martin Edward Mullineaux inside of his condominium in the 8700 block of Hayshed Lane in Columbia. Joseph P. Loverde pleaded guilty to first degree murder shortly before jury selection was to begin this morning in what was expected to be a two-week trial.

Assistant State's Attorney Stephen Yaeger told the court that police and fire and rescue personnel were dispatched to Mullineaux's apartment shortly before noon on September 13, 2016 after it had been reported that he had not come to work in two days by his manager at the Green Valley Market. Police found Mullineaux's body lying motionless on the floor of his bedroom, having sustained scores of stab wounds and blunt force trauma. Mullineaux, 62, was subsequently pronounced dead at the scene. There were no signs of forced entry.

Evidence recovered at the scene led investigators to Loverde, whom they learned had been known to Mr. Mullineaux. Mr. Mullineaux had previously allowed Loverde to stay at his apartment. In checking Mullineaux's financial information, the police learned that Loverde began using the victim's credit and debit cards to obtain cigarettes and drinks. The police then located surveillance video showing Loverde in the victim's car which had been taken as well. Loverde was placed under arrest in Glen Burnie and Mullineaux's car was located in that vicinity.

Howard County Circuit Court Judge William V. Tucker ordered a pre-sentence investigation and a sentencing hearing will be held on January 17, 2018. Prosecutors will ask for life sentence, suspending all but 50 years in prison for Loverde.

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